

Throughout its history, the Wiggin Memorial Library has made information available in a variety of formats, from print to audiovisual materials. The library's computer system provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources, i.e. the Internet, from information networks around the world with the library's other resources. By offering the Internet as an information resource, the Wiggin Memorial Library's primary goals are to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and, as a public access agency, give members of the public the opportunity to navigate the Internet in the library.

**A. Accessibility**

The library will provide internet access through library computers and a wireless network. Reasonable accommodations will be made to improve access for individuals with disabilities.

**B. Restrictions**

1. Patrons must sign up to use a library computer; if others are waiting there is a 30-minute time limit on use
2. Since the number of terminals and the amount of staff time are both limited, the staff may limit the amount of time any individual may spend on the Internet terminal, as well as the amount of research that staff will do on behalf of any individual patron
3. Users must be courteous and respectful when using library computers or library wireless access and conform to the library's Behavior Policy
4. Library-provided internet access is for legal and legitimate uses only. Specific unallowed uses are – but are not limited to –
  - Tampering with library computer hardware or software
  - Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance
  - Gaining unauthorized access to resources, networks or entities
  - Violating Federal, State or local laws
  - Harassment of other users
  - Viewing content not protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution or displaying this illegal content
  - Committing fraud by misrepresenting ones self as another user/person
  - Transmission of computer viruses or other malware
  - Violating U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) by downloading, reproducing or distributing copyrighted materials in ways not permitted by the principles of “fair use”
  - Violating end-user agreements or other terms and conditions required for use of downloadable media content or library-provided electronic resources
5. The Wiggin Memorial Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic information systems and internet access (wired and wireless), or any consequences thereof

**C. Open Access to the Internet**

The Internet is an organic environment. The paths to and types of information available on the Internet are numerous and ever-changing. While the resources may be useful and

enriching, they may also be outdated, inaccurate, offensive to some, and even illegal. The Internet enlarges our library collection (which has been selected and developed with our community's needs in mind) but also remains out of our control.

The Wiggin Memorial Library does not monitor or exert control over information accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for the content, quality or nature of that information.

The library staff is available as time permits to provide suggestions and ideas to help patrons with their searches. The library is unable to provide complete technical support but does offer help sessions regularly.

The library supports free and open access to the Internet for all library users and believes that this is consistent with the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read and the Freedom to View, as stated by the American Library Association, and the mission of the library.

#### **Children's Internet Access**

The library is aware of parental and societal concerns about children's safety on the Internet. Access to the Internet carries the potential to deliberately or accidentally access inaccurate, inappropriate, or offensive material. Therefore, the library encourages parents and guardians to take an active role in their children's use of the Internet at the library and to talk with children about their personal values, expectations and rules for safe behavior when using this resource.

The library staff encourages children, parents and guardians to speak to the library staff if they get to a Web site that makes them uncomfortable. The library maintains a list of excellent sites for children on its Web site and is happy to introduce this list as well as basic Internet safety tips for children and adults to families or caregivers.

All electronic resources available through the library are provided equally to library users. The library affirms the right and responsibility of parents or legal guardians to guide their children's use of all library resources, including the Internet. As is the case with all other library materials, any restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the child's parent or legal guardian. Parents or legal guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet, e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and electronic resources information selected, transmitted, and/or accessed by their children.

#### **D. Privacy**

The library respects its users' right to confidentiality and privacy. Each user is expected to respect the privacy of other computer users. The Internet is not a secure medium and the security on the library's wireless and wired networks is not designed to protect personal data (except in internal library uses).

All transactions, files and communications, including transmission of personal financial or other information, may be subject to access by third parties, whether legal or illegal.

The library will not release information on the use of electronic resources or library-provided Internet by members of the public except as required by law. Sign-up sheets used to reserve computer time only record first names and are destroyed monthly.

**E. Caveats**

1. Wiggins Memorial Library makes efforts to ensure that our Internet access through the wired network and wireless access points stay operational; however, due to intermittent outages and occasional equipment problems, the library cannot guarantee that Internet access will be available to users at all times, especially during closed, evening and weekend hours
2. Most wireless-equipped devices will be compatible with the library's wireless access points, but the library cannot guarantee that your hardware will work with the library's wireless network. If a user experiences problems connecting to a wireless access point during business hours, library staff will verify that the library's network is operational if they are able, but staff are not trained to configure or troubleshoot wireless connections or mobile devices.
3. The library staff can provide general information about accessing the Internet on library computers or using the wireless access points but cannot provide in-depth technical assistance. Users are solely responsible for any changes made to their computer settings
4. The library's wireless network provides no security between the access points and your device; therefore, it is possible that information sent to or from your device could be captured by a third party. The library strongly recommends that you not transmit sensitive personal information when using any public wireless access point. It is also strongly recommended that users have up-to-date virus and malware protection on devices, apply recommended security patches for operating systems, and take other appropriate precautions
5. Use of the library's wired or wireless networks is entirely at the risk of the user. The library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or for device configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the library's wired or wireless networks, or liability for any consequent damage to hardware, software, peripherals, or data.

**Related Documents:**

Library Bill of Rights  
Freedom to Read Statement  
Freedom to View Statement  
U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code)  
WML Technology Policy  
WML Behavior & Unattended Children Policy

WIGGIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
Internet Use Policy

*draft 8/11*

Signatures of the Board of Trustees indicates adoption of this policy.

\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_